

Appl. No. 10/501939
Amdt. dated November 13, 2007
Reply to Office action of August 13, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and the following remarks are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

The Examiner indicated that information disclosure statement filed on July 20, 2004 failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each foreign patent document and each non-patent literature publication. The information disclosure statement is now being resubmitted, including a legible copy of each cited reference for the Examiner's consideration.

New claims 4-6 were added by amendment.

Claims 1-3 were objected to for informalities and have been amended appropriately to obviate the objection.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner indicated that the term "around" was not clear without an associated discussion in the specification. The term "around" has been deleted from claim 3. Further, the Examiner indicated that the reference to the "normal" direction was unclear. The claim has been amended to recite "a direction perpendicular to the base," which is sufficiently clear for purposes of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0005786 A1 to Stuart et al. (hereinafter "Stuart"). For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Stuart does not teach four joints, as required by claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 requires a first joint (8), a second joint (9), a third joint (10) and a ball joint (11). Stuart teaches that each

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arm has a sliding joint (between the post 24 and the actuator 16), a joint providing three degrees of freedom (between the lower end 26 and the actuator 16), and a joint having two degrees of freedom (at the upper end 28). Thus, Stuart only teaches providing three joints for each arm, and not the four joints required by claim 1. Since every limitation of claim 1 is not taught, claim 1 is not fully anticipated by Stuart and the rejection should be withdrawn.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. BRV-36905.

Respectfully submitted,
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